

## Message Text

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SUBJ: MISSION COMMENTS ON DECEMBER 10 NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

REF: A. USNATO 5620

B. STATE 243797

C. USNATO 6669

D. NPG/D(74)9

E. USNATO 6672

F. USNATO 6660

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES MISSION COMMENTS ON THE DEC 10 NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA FOR USE BY WASHINGTON IN PREPARING FOR THE MEETING. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S CUSTOMARY BRIEFING ON THE PRESENT AND PROJECTED STRATEGIC BALANCE WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ALLIED MINISTERS IN LIGHT OF RECENT VLADIVOSTOK SALT AGREEMENTS. DEFMIN WILL ALSO BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S COMMENTS ON STATUS OF US THINKING ON TOPICS RAISED IN THE NUCLEAR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT, AND IN MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN NATO ON THE APRIL 1 REPORT TO  
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CONGRESS. IF MINISTERS HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THE MNC'S STATEMENTS ON SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP), THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN RATIONALE UNDERLYING CURRENT EMPHASIS ON QUOTE PREPLANNING UNQUOTE AND ON RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN SEP AND US EMPLOYMENT POLICY. MISSION ASSUMES THAT EITHER US OR ITALY WILL EXTEND FORMAL INVITATION TO HOST THE SPRING 1975 NPG MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIEFING ON THE BALANCE OF STRATEGIC FORCES. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S BRIEFING, AS IN THE PAST, WILL BE A HIGHLIGHT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET AND US STRATEGIC FORCES. ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL BE LIKELY TO HAVE QUESTIONS ON THE VLADIVOSTOK SALT AGREEMENTS AND RELATIONSHIP TO SOVIET PROGRAMS AND US STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT SECSTATE PLANS TO GIVE COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT TO ALLIED FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SALT IN THE NAC.

2. NUNN AMENDMENT. THE MINISTERS WILL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN US NUCLEAR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT AT THE OCTOBER 10 NPG PERMREPS MEETING (REF A) REFLECT ALLIED CONCERNS IN THIS AREA. DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL WELCOME SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S ASSURANCES IN HIS LETTER OF NOVEMBER 6 TO SYG LUNS (REF B) THAT THE US WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH THE ALLIES BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON APRIL 1. THEY MAY BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN TO SHAPE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NUNN AMENDMENT, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATO POLITICAL VIEWS AFTER NMA'S HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WORK. THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING DIRECTION OF US THINKING ON THESE SUBJECTS. THE MEETING WILL THEREFORE PROVIDE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SECRETARY TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON US NUCLEAR EMPLOYMENT POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO USE IN THE THEATER, AND ON DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS OF NATO THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES. MOREOVER, IN LAYING GROUNDWORK WITH ALLIES FOR DIRECTION WE WANT TO TAKE IN THE NUNN AMENDMENT REPORT, WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF US THINKING AND OUR INTEREST IN TAKING NATO POLITICAL AND MILITARY VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.

3. TYPES OF CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS MINISTERS MIGHT HAVE  
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CONNECTION WITH NUNN AMENDMENT ARE: A) POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS, AND TIMING THEREFORE, IN THE THEATER STOCKPILE; B) POSSIBLE MODERNIZATION; C) RELATION OF RESULTS OF US STUDIES TO MBFR AND SALT; D) IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION; E) US VIEWS ON NUCLEAR EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND DOCTRINE, AND RELATION TO EXISTING AGREED NATO STRATEGY AND POLICY; F) RELATION OF US STUDIES TO ON-GOING NPG WORK SUCH AS FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY PROGRAM AND TECHNOLOGY STUDY, AND G) POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN ACQUISITION, SURVIVABILITY, AND COMMAND AND CONTROL. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARY INCLUDE REFERENCE TO AGREED NATO POLICY DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS INITIAL USE GUIDELINES AND THE CONCEPT FOR THE ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES, SINCE ALLIES VIEW THESE DOCUMENTS AS KEY STATEMENTS OF NATO POLICY

AGREED TO BY ALL ALLIES, INCLUDING US.

4. STATUS OF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP). THIS SUBJECT IS INCLUDED ON THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA WITH CAVEAT THAT MINISTERS CAN DISCUSS IT IF TIME PERMITS (REF C). ALLIES ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT SEP IS ALL ABOUT, SINCE AT THIS STAGE THEY HAVE ONLY VAGUE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUBJECT. SHAPE'S BACKGROUND PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT (REF D) AND SACEUR'S AND SACLAN'T'S STATEMENTS AT THE NPG MEETING SHOULD HELP TO MOLLIFY UNEASINESS THAT MAY EXIST IN MINDS OF ALLIES. DEFENSE MINISTERS MAY BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RATIONALE AND FEASIBILITY OF PREPLANNING OF NUCLEAR STRIKES, SINCE NAT GUIDANCE IN THE CONCEPT FOR THR ROLE OF THEATER STRIKE FORCES (DPC/D(70)59, REVISED, PARAS 56(B) AND 65)) CALLS ATTENTION TO SOME OF DIFFICULTIES AND LIMITATIONS INVOLVED. SINCE SEP IS DEISGNEED NOT ONLY TO FACILITATE CONTROL AND INITIATIVE IN STRIKE PLANNING BY NMA'S, BUT ALSO CONSULTATION AND DECISION-MAKING BY POLITICAL AUTHORITIES, WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE SUSTAINED INTEREST OF ALLIES IN THIS SUBJECT. SEP IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SINCE IT CAN INVOLVE PREPLAINNING OF RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF STRIKES, INCLUDING STRIKES ON NATO TERRITORY, WHICH ALLIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY NOT BEEN EAGE TO CONTEMPLATE IN ADVANCE.

5. MINISTERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS ON RELATIONSHIP OF SEP TO US EMPLOYMENT POLICY DESCRIBED IN SECDEF STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC FORCES AND POLICY CIRCULATED AT JUNE 14, 1974 DPC MEETING.

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ALLIES WILL PROBABLY SEE SEP IN NATO AS ADJUNCT TO US LIMITED STRATEGIC OPTIONS. THEY MAY ASK FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE THIRD CATEGORY OF OPTIONS DESCRIBED IN SECDEF STATEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE, WHICH PROVIDES FOR COMBINED STRIKES BY EXTERNAL AND THEATER FORCES.

6. FURURE WORK PROGRAM (INCLUDING TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING). BECAUSE TIME WILL BE LIMITED, MISSION DOUBTS THAT MINISTERS WILL ENGAGE IN MUCH DISCUSSION, IF ANY, ON THE NPG FUTURE WORK PROGRAM. PRINCIPAL AREA OF NEW WORK IDENTIFIED IN SYG LUNS' PO ON THIS SUBJECT (REF E) RELATES TO CONSULTATIONS ON THE US NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES. PARA 3 OF THE PO CALLS ATTENTION TO ROLE OF NPG IN CONSULTATIONS, AND MISSION EXPECTS THAT SOME MINISTERS, PROBABLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM II, WILL URGE THAT NPG PARTICIPATE FULLY IN DEVELOPMENT OF NATO POLITICAL VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. SOME MINISTERS MAY ALSO URGE PROGRESS ON THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY.

7. SUBJECT TO OUTCOME OF SYG'S TALKS WITH ITALIANS (STATE 263877) MISSION ASSUMES THAT EITHER THE US OR ITALY WILL FORMALLY EXTEND INVITATION TO HOST THE SPRING 1975 MINISTERIAL MEETING.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS OF ANY SUBJECTS

THAT MINISTERS, SYG LUNS, OR NMA'S MIGHT RAISE UNDER THIS AGENDA  
ITEM.

9. COMMUNIQUE. MISSION EXPECTS THAT SYG LUNS WILL TABLE DRAFT  
MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE FOR APPROVAL BY MINISTERS. THE DRAFT WILL  
BE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE BY NPG COUNTRIES TO FACILITATE  
RAPID APPROVAL. MISSION REQUESTED WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON  
INITIAL DRAFT PREPARED BY IS IN REF F.BRUCE

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